

Message Text

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SUBJECT: IVORIAN AGRICULTURE: 1975 PROJECTIONS

ON BASIS FIRST QUARTER PRODUCTION

1. FRATERNITE-MATIN JULY 16 RELEASED FINANCE
MINISTRY FIGURES FOR 1975 FIRST QUARTER PRODUCTION
AND PROJECTIONS FOR ENTIRE YEAR FOR COFFEE, COCOA,
TIMBER, BANANAS AND PINEAPPLE.

2. COFFEE. BY MID-APRIL 255,000 M.T. GREEN COFFEE
COMMERCIALIZED; ESTIMATE 1974-75 CAMPAIGN PRODUCTION
270,000 M.T. GREEN COFFEE. DUE TOH 30 CFAF/KILO INCREASE

IN PRICE TO FARMER, COFFEE FARMERS' INCOME INCREASED
16.5 BILLION CFAF (U.S. DOLLARS 78.5 MILLION) OVER
1973-74 CAMPAIGN. NEWSPAPER COMMENTED THAT WORLD
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MARKET FOR COFFEE NOT IMPROVED DUE PARTLY TO

STOCKS HELD BY CONSUMING COUNTRIES SINCE EARLY 1974 AND TO EXCELLENT 1974-75 SEASON WORLDWIDE HARVEST. FRATERNITE-MATIN ALSO NOTED THAT QUOTE SOME OTHER COFFEE PRODUCING COUNTRIES HAVE NOT RIGOROUSLY APPLIED POLICY OF HOLDING COFFEE OFF MARKET, AS HAS IVORY COAST END QUOTE.

3. COCOA. FRATERNITE-MATIN PREDICTED THAT 1975 PRODUCTION WILL EXCEED PREVIOUS LEVEL OF 200,000 M.T. BY WIDE MARGIN. BY END MARCH, 219,000 M.T. COCOA BEANS COMMERCIALIZED, LEADING TO ESTIMATES OF 240,000 M.T. FOR 1974-75 CAMPAIGN TOTAL. IF REALIZED, THIS REPRESENTS 12 PERCENT INCREASE OVER 1973-74 HARVEST. FOR FIRST TIME IN IVORY COAST FARMERS DERIVE MORE INCOME FROM COCOA (42 BILLION CFAF EQUALS U.S. DOLLARS 200 MILLION) THAN FROM COFFEE (40.2 BILLION CFAF EQUALS U.S. DOLLARS 192 MILLION).

SUCCESS OF 1974-75 COCOA CROP INDICATES IVORY COAST OVERTAKES NIGERIA IN PRODUCTION BUT REMAINS IN THIRD PLACE DUE TO BRAZIL'S BUMPER CROP.

FRATERNITE-MATIN NOTES THAT GHANA'S SHARE OF WORLD COCOA PRODUCTION DROPPED TO 25 PERCENT IN 1974-75 SEASON, DOWN FROM PREVIOUS SEASON'S LEVEL OF 38 PERCENT. IVORY COAST NOW SUPPLIES 15 PERCENT WORLD PRODUCTION, 5 PERCENT INCREASE OVER LAST YEAR'S FIGURE. NEWSPAPER COMMENTED THAT FOR FIRST TIME IN RECENT YEARS WORLD COCOA PRODUCTION AHEAD OF CONSUMPTION, WHICH HAS DECLINED DUE TO RECENT HIGH PRICES FOR COCOA AND SUGAR.

4. WOOD SECTOR. WORLD MARKET STILL WEAK BUT FIRST QUARTER 1975 EXPORTS BETTER THAN FINAL QUARTERS 1974. FIRST QUARTER 1975 WOOD EXPORTS INCLUDED 608,000 CUBIC METERS LOGS AND 70,000 CUBIC METERS SAWN TIMBER. 1975 EXPORT OF LOGS SEEN REMAIN AT 1972 LEVEL OF 2.4 MILLION CUBIC METERS. ACCORDING TO FIGURES FURNISHED BY MINISTRY OF WATER AND FORESTS, 3.2 MILLION CUBIC METERS LOGS WERE EXPORTED AND ANOTHER 1.6 MILLION CUBIC METERS WERE PROCESSED BY FACTORIES IN 1974.

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DUE TO LOW MARKET PRICES, EXPORTERS MARKETING MORE LOW-GRADE WOODS INSTEAD OF BETTER GRADES. GOVERNMENT INCOME FROM TIMBER EXPORTS THEREFORE LOWER BECAUSE TAXES ON EXPORT OF SECOND GRADE MUCH LESS THAN FOR PRIME TIMBER.

5. BANANA. PROLONGED WINTER IN WESTERN EUROPE SUSTAINS HIGH FOREIGN DEMAND FOR BANANAS, HOWEVER

FIRST QUARTER EXPORTS OF 38,303 M.T. DOWN 18 PERCENT
OVER FIRST QUARTER 1974 DUE TO BAD WEATHER EARLY 1975.
ALSO LABOR SHORTAGE IN SOME REGIONS CONTRIBUTED TO LOW
PRODUCTION.

6. PINEAPPLE. FIRST QUARTER 1975 EXPORTS OF
19,456 M.T. SHOW INCREASE OF 17 PERCENT OVER FIRST
QUARTER 1974 AND EUROPEAN DEMAND FOR FRESH PINEAPPLES
CONTINUES STRONG. 1975 EXPORT FRESH PINEAPPLES MAY
REACH 80,000 M.T. EXPORT OF CANNED PINEAPPLES, HOWEVER,
FELL OFF SHARPLY DURING SAME PERIOD DUE TO
58 PERCENT DROP IN FRENCH DEMAND.
SMITH

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